

COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY
(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

Chairman: Mr. Milton Farley, District No. 1

The COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, met on Monday, October 14, 2002, in the Assembly Room of the Berkeley County Office Building, 223 North Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, at 6:04 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. Milton Farley, Council Member District No. 1, Chairman; Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, Council Member District No. 2; Mr. William E. Crosby, Council Member District No. 3; Mr. Charles E. Davis, Council Member District No. 4; Mrs. Judy C. Mims, Council Member District No. 6; Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., Council Member District No. 7; Mr. Steve C. Davis, Councilmember District No. 8; Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex officio; Mr. D. Mark Stokes, County Attorney and Ms. Barbara B. Austin, Clerk of County Council. Mr. Steve M. Vaughn, Council Member District No. 5 was absent.

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting date, time, place and agenda was posted on the bulletin board at the entrance of the County Office Building, 223 N. Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina and the Berkeley County Library, and mailed to newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Chairman Farley called the meeting to order. Councilmember Spooner gave the invocation and Councilmember Crosby led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Mr. Rozier stated an Executive Session was needed to discuss matters relating to the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to the discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by public body or the appointment of a person to a public body and contractual matters.

It was moved by Councilmember Spooner and seconded by Councilmember Crosby to enter into Executive Session for reasons stated. The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

The Committee on Justice and Public Safety enter into Executive Session at 6:06 p.m. and returned at 7:41 p.m.

Mr. D. Mark Stokes, County Attorney reported the Committee on Justice and Public Safety went into Executive Session to discuss matters as stated in the motion. No formal action was taken.

Chairman Farley asked the Committee's pleasure on the approval of minutes from the Committee on Justice and Public Safety meeting held on September 9, 2002.

It was moved by Councilmember Crosby and seconded by Councilmember Charlie Davis to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

A. H. Wayne Dewitt, Berkeley County Sheriff, Re: additional funding reserve officer program.

Sheriff Dewitt explained the program generates revenue from contracts with the Army Corp of Engineers and the National Forestry Service. There is money in their account that will fund the cost of a new vehicle. The total cost of a 2003 Dodge Durango with striping and radios will be \$21, 275.

It was moved by Councilmember Mims and seconded by Councilmember Spooner to approve the transfer for funds within Sheriff's Account No. 42105 for the purchase of an equipped 2003 Dodge Durango in the amount of \$21,275. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

2. Additional personnel for Department.

Sheriff Dewitt indicated to the Committee there was a need for a Records Information Analyst. Statistics must be compiled via uniform crime reports for S.L.E.D. and then sent to the FBI for national statistics every year. This must be done in order for the Sheriff's department to qualify for Federal grants and possibly effect the department's accreditation. S.L.E.D. has notified the department they would no longer code the information sent to them as of December 31, 2002. The prorated cost of the position for the remainder of the 2002-2003 fiscal year is \$21, 892.77. The cost for the next fiscal year will be \$32,630.29.

Mr. Rozier asked if one of the positions, that have not been filled, could be used for this position?

1. Additional Funds for Department.

Sheriff Dewitt explained that when the School Resource Officers (SROs) program was initiated there was State funding involved. During that time the Sheriff's department applied for a Federal Grant that paid for SROs. The Federal Grant paid for four (4) SROs. The State money is still effective, but Federal grant monies expired on September 30, 2002. Sheriff Dewitt has met with Dr. Chester Floyd, Berkeley County School Board Administrator, on several occasions to discuss this matter. Sheriff Dewitt has spoken with Senator Hollings' and Congressman Brown's offices to research additional grant monies available for these positions. The School Board committed \$179,000. This was a shortfall of \$24,608.72. Sheriff Dewitt's proposal to the Committee was to transfer the vacant Deputy Sheriff position totaling \$35,500, to fund the SROs. Using the amount needed of \$24,608.72 would bring a savings of \$9,332. Sheriff Dewitt indicated that if this position was not funded that he would have to take SROs out of select schools.

Councilmember Spooner asked if the schools have not found the program to be a valuable program? If so, why are they not willing to fund the entire program?

Sheriff Dewitt stated he was sure they were. When he went to Dr. Floyd he indicated that next year the entire funding responsibility may be the schools.

Councilmember Spooner stated her fear was that if the County funds this small portion then next year it would be more and even more the next year. Also, that the School Board gets a very large part of taxes. "The program is in the schools and beneficial to them then they should fund the entire amount." She feels that the schools' budget being so large; could better fund these positions than the County can.

Mr. Rozier indicated the School Board has increased the tax bills by 22 mills this year. He stated this year \$94, 909 of our funds would be given to the School Board. Next year it will be \$106,118. This year the budget was trimmed and cut greatly and the two (2) positions that were funded for the Sheriff's department were intended to be on the road. "If the school is going to raise 22 mills and then we fund some of their positions. I don't know...it bothers me."

Councilmember Steve Davis asked if the School Board is funding the entire \$179,000?

Mr. Rozier stated they were not funding the entire amount. They are funding position by position. Therefore, the School Board is actually funding \$151, 954. That is a difference of \$27, 046 from \$179,000.

Sheriff Dewitt understood that the School Board would give the entire \$179,000. It was not by position.

Ms. Kace Smith, Finance Director indicated it was explained to Human Resources they would pay position by position.

Sheriff Dewitt stated he would let it be known to the School Board the County would not fund any of the SROs in the next fiscal year.

Councilmember Pinckney suggested rotation of the SROs between two schools that were not at a high risk. This would solve the problem of the seventh SRO.

Mr. Rozier stated he would like to have a written response from the School Board as to their portion of the funding.

Sheriff Dewitt asked the Committee to have the latitude to work them in and out of the schools until a resolution is agreed upon.

The Committee agreed and recommended the matter should be held until the Finance Committee meeting scheduled for October 21, 2002.

It was moved by Councilmember Mims and seconded by Councilmember Charlie Davis to create a new position to fund a Records Information Analyst for the Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$21,892 for the remainder of fiscal year 2002-2003.

Councilmember Spooner reminded the Committee that this is taking up some of the money that the state cut out. "They knew we would feel responsible to pick up their responsibilities."

The motion was passed by majority voice vote of the Committee with Councilmember Spooner and Pinckney voting "Nay."

B. Ralph Hoisington, Ninth Circuit Solicitor, Re: Personnel matters.

This item was rescheduled for November 18, 2002.

C. Elizabeth Harper, Chief Judge, Re: Issues of security, personnel and space.

Mr. D. Mark Stokes indicated that an Executive Session was needed to discuss the agenda items.

Chairman Farley recessed the Committee on Justice and Public Safety at 8:27 p.m.

The Committee on Justice and Public Safety resumed at 8:56 p.m.

Mr. Rozier stated an Executive Session was needed to discuss personnel matters.

It was moved by Councilmember Spooner and seconded by Councilmember Steve Davis to enter into Executive Session for reasons stated. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

The Committee on Justice and Public Safety entered into Executive Session at 8:58 p.m. and returned at 9:37 pm.

Mr. Rozier reported the Committee on Justice and Public Safety entered into Executive Session to discuss matters as stated in the motion. No formal action was taken.

It was moved by Councilmember Spooner and seconded by Councilmember Charlie Davis to adjourn the Committee on Justice and Public Safety. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

November 18, 2002
Date Approved

**COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY
(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)**

Chairman: Mr. Milton Farley, District No. 1

Members: Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, District No. 2
Mr. William E. Crosby, District No. 3
Mr. Charles E. Davis, District No. 4
Mr. Steve M. Vaughn, District No. 5
Mrs. Judy C. Mims, District No. 6
Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr. District No. 7
Mr. Steve C. Davis, District No. 8
Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex officio

A meeting of the COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, will be held on Monday October 14, 2002, in the Assembly Room, Berkeley County Office Building, 223 N. Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, at 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss matters relating to the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to the discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

September 9, 2002

- A.** H. Wayne DeWitt, Berkeley County Sheriff, Re:
 - 1. Additional funds for Department.
 - 2. Additional personnel for Department.
- B.** Ralph Hoisington, Ninth Circuit Solicitor, Re: Personnel matters.
- C.** Elizabeth Harper, Chief Judge, Re: Issues of security, personnel and space.

October 9, 2002
S/Barbara B. Austin
Clerk of County Council